

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 EB-11

INT-08 SCI-06 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /135 W
----- 030897

R 271205 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2530

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, AF, IR

SUBJ: PARLIAMENT FAILS ACHIEVE QUORUM-- HELMAND TREATY APPROVAL
STILL PENDING

REF: KABUL 1863

1. PARLIAMENT STILL UNABLE ACHIEVE QUORUM AS OF MARCH 27
(NEXT ATTEMPT AT SESSION APRIL 1). ALTHOUGH NUMBER DEPUTIES
SUFFICIENT FOR QUORUM KNOWN TO BE IN KABUL SIGNIFICANT NUMBER
AVOIDING PARLIAMENT FOR VARIOUS REASONS. GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY
25 LEFT OF CENTER DEPUTIES UNITED IN OPPOSITION HELMAND
TREATY HOLDING REGULAR MEETINGS OUTSIDE HALL IN DETERMINED AND
SO FAR SUCCESSFUL EFFORT BLOCK QUORUM. SOME MEMBERS LEFTIST
GROUP HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL ENTER HALL ONLY AFTER THEIR
ANTI- TREATY STRATEGY AGREED UPON.

2. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT LARGE DEMONSTRATION (ESTIMATED 7000)
ORGANIZED BY KHALQ HELD AFTERNOON MARCH 26 AGAINST HELMAND
WATERS TREATY. MAIN SPEAKER WAS DEPUTY HAFIZULLAH AMIN (ONE OF
LEFT- LEANING DEPUTIES NOTED ABOVE), WHO (A) OFFERED ARTICLE BY
ARTICLE REJECTION TREATY BASED ON PAST 100 YEARS AFGHAN POLICY,
(B) EMPHASIZED QUOTE TREASONABLE UNQUOTE NATURE TREATY
AND (C) IMPLIED CRITICISM KING FOR SUPPORTING TREATY BY NOTING
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THAT IN PAST QUOTE EVEN WELL- KNOWN AGENT BRITISH IMPERIALISM AMIR HABIBULLAH KHAN UNQUOTE AGAINST ANY ACCOMODATION WITH IRAN ON HELMAND. WHEN POLICE REQUESTING TO ITALIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS, PRAVDA ARTICLE IN COMMENTING ON COMMUNIQUE, IMPLIED THAT PCI HAD SUBSCRIBED IN TOTO TO RESOLUTIONS ISSUED BY 1969 CONCLAVE OF COMMUNIST PARTIES. SIGNIFICANCE OF PRAVDA ASSERTION, ACCORDING ITALIAN PRESS, LIES IN THE FACT THAT NOT ONLY WAS THERE NO MENTION OF 1969 MEETING IN COMMUNIQUE BUT PCI, IN FACT, HAD SUBSCRIBED TO ONLY ONE OF FOUR RESOLUTIONS AT 1969 MEETING WHILE DECLINING TO SUPPORT THOSE WHICH INTER ALIA CONDEMNED MAOISM AND SUPPORTED WP INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA,

3. SECON POINT PICKED UP BY ITALIAN PRESS WAS THAT PRAVDA EDITORIAL HAD OMITTED SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT PASSAGES FROM COMMUNIQUE INCLUDING " GRADUAL OVERCOMING, TO THEIR FINAL LIQUIDATION, OF OPPOSING BLOCS IN EUROPE" AND THE REPEATED ALLUSIONS TO " THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES TO AN AUTONOMOUS AND INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT." A FURTHER OMISSION RELATED TO THE RIGHT OF EACH COMMUNIST PARTY " TO ELABORATE INDEPENDENTLY ITS OWN PATH FOR THE DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIALIST TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY AND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CONDITIONS AND TRADITIONS OF ITS OWN COUNTRY." A FINAL DISTORTION NOTED BY PRESS HERE WAS THAT PRAVDA HAD TRANSPOSED THE PHRASE " THE PCI DELEGATION EMPHASIZES, IN THIS REGARD, THE HARM OF ANY FORM OF ANTI- SOVIETISM" FROM THE END OF THE COMMUNIQUE WHERE, IN CONTEXT, IT CLEARLY REFERRED TO ITALY ALONE, TO THE BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DECLARATION OF COMMON OBJECTIVES, THEREBY GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT PCI CONDEMNED ANTI- SOVIETISM FROM ANY QUARTER. PRESS WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT ANTI- CHINESE CONNOTATION OF THIS EDITORIAL SLEIGHT OF HAND.

4. AS NOTED IN REF B, BERLINGUER RESPONDED TO PRAVDA EDITORIAL IN MARCH 18 L' UNITA INTERVIEW IN WHICH PCI PARTY SECRETARY MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: " TO TELL THE TRUTH, PRAVDA' S COMMENTS DO NOT REFLECT IN SOME POINTS, THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER OF THE COMMUNIQUE'. IN PARTICULAR, THE REFERENCE TO THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE IS SURPRISING, SINCE IT IS KNOWN THAT OUR PARTY WHICH ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN DEBATE AT THE CONFERENCE, SIGNED ONLY ONE OF THE FOUR SECTIONS OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT, NAMELY THE ONE CONCERNING THE CONCRETE OBJECTIVES OF THE ANTI- IMPERIALISTIC STRUGGLE. AND OUR POSITION SINCE THEN HAS NOT CHANGED." ACCORDING ITALIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESS, PRAVDA'S COVERAGE FOLLOWING DAY OF BERLINGUER INTERVIEW
POINTEDLY OMITTED THIS STATEMENT.

5. AMONG EARLY REACTIONS TO BERLINGUER VISIT TO MOSCOW, SOCIAL-
IST PARTY PAPER AVANTI (MARCH 15) TOOK PCI TO TASK FOR HAVING
SIGNED BUREAUCRATIC AND DISAPPOINTING COMMUNIQUE WHICH MADE
NO MENTION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA DESPITE HIGH SOUNDING LANGUAGE
ABOUT EQUAL RIGHTS OF ALL (COMMUNIST) PARTIES AND NON- INTER-
FERENCE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IN SAME CONTEXT,
AVANTI CHARACTERIZED PORTION OF COMMUNIQUE WHICH SPEAKS OF THE
" HARM OF ANY FORM OF ANTI- SOVIETISM" AS COERCIVE FORMULA USED
BY SOVIETS, IN THE NAME OF SPURIOUS INTERNATIONALISM, TO OBTAIN
" UNDERSTANDING" TOWARD EVERY ACT OF SOVIET POWER POLICY.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KABUL01998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: CORE6
Film Number: n/a
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730339/aaaaiikc.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KABUL 1863
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 28 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; RELEASED <28-Dec-2001 by morefirh>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971230
Subject: PARLIAMENT FAILS ACHIEVE QUORUM-- HELMAND TREATY APPROVAL STILL PENDING
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, AF, IR
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ISLAMABAD
TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005